Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup

Minutes
2/12/2018

Present
Debbie Slack Katz (Chair)
Mark Deluca (Staff)
Mike Hinson (Staff)
Phil Nichols (Staff)
Lori Lilly (Member)
Ken McNaughton (Member)
Frank Durantaye (Member)
Ron Peters (Member)
Kevin Bloom (Member)
Dave Myers (Member)
Gary Smith (Member)

Guests: Army Corps of Engineers

❖ Old Business –

- Approval of minutes from 11/13/17 – Frank motion, Ron second and all approve

❖ Presentation of Floodproofing Study

- Main presenter: Marco Ciarla – 410-962-4519; marco.n.ciarla@usace.army.mil
- Nonstructural floodproofing options – physical – elevation, relocation, dry floodproofing and wet floodproofing; nonphysical – flood warning system, flood insurance, preparedness plan – Focus is on reducing consequences
- Dry floodproofing – create exterior barrier – 3-4' – no wood, bldg. needs to be able to hold back water
- Door closures – flood doors, double flood doors, door panels, window panels
- Wet floodproofing – let water come in to bldg. and make sure that structures can get wet – elevate valuables – install flood vents
- Elevation – on extended foundation walls, on fill, on piles; break-away panels
- Passive vs active measures – passive – little warning time; active – require labor and warning time
- Flashy and terrain – problem with flood warning time manage expectations, these practices would not have prevented all damage from 7/2016
- Factsheets will be in Appendix
- Flood characteristics – 500-yr flood maps – some areas outside of these boundaries affected
- Building elevation survey on 80 buildings – first floors, lowest adjacent grade, lowest openings, values of buildings, building material – 4 public, 66 commercial

- Survey area: Patapsco to 29
- 16 sample buildings – mix of usage, historic status, architectural features - key features / representative sample size
- Historic preservation, building codes – state and local historic people contacted
- These techniques can help improve resiliency to lesser floods (5-10 yr events) that occur more frequently
- Examples - Glass building – "safe" room – interior flood gate – structural windows, stoplog panels, louvres (lets water come in)
- Visitor building – first floor basement – flood doors not visible to Main St; "skin" to make look historic; small walls around grates
- 8367/8369 – elevate utilities, elevate building
- 8358 – take 1st floor out of flood zone; DFE – design flood elevation – flood louvres as alternative to elevation
- 8202 – bollards behind porch; flood door
- Benefit to cost ratio (BCR) – BCR>1 is considered cost effective; based on flood damage reduction; 0 of 6 had BCR>1 to elevate; wet floodproofing – 4/4 had BCR>1; passive floodproofing – 7/10 had BCR>1; active floodproofing – 9/10 had BCR>1
- Flood Action Plan – pre-flood actions associated with floodproofing measures; passive measures more effective; have an emergency action plan
- Should take 5-10 minutes to install a flood door
- Concept sheets
- Follow-up – workshops by USACOE; examples from other communities – FEMA and Corps – implementation would result in feds putting up some of the cost; Section 205 – projects less than 10 myn – need a cost share feasibility study (50/50); design / construction 65/35 (fed/non-fed)
- Frank's flood insurance – doubled and will increase 15% for each year after that
- HoCo provides elevation certs at no cost to property owner

County Update

- Dept. of Homeland Security flood security system, looking for gages – 3 sensors are being evaluated, this is a pilot site
- H7, T1 and West End Storm Drain improvements – continuing to advance in design
- H7 – 29/40 interchange – developing legal agreements – is at the State for review
- T1 – met with GreenVest, County is evaluating their proposal – would be a P3 project
- West End Storm Drain – repair of wall currently ongoing, almost done; pipe conversion is in progress – County met with Kevin to look at details
- Diversion pipe – doing an alignment study, looking at 3 alignments
- Storm Drains on Church, Emory, Old Columbia and MD Ave – kick off for design at end of Jan – figure out existing conditions of pipe system
- Master Planning group – working with McCormick Taylor to run some additional modeling - Master Plan had requested

❖ **Scope of Flood Workgoup –** Being reviewed; Lori suggests production of an annual report, formal / informal education and community report-outs and also that the meeting schedule be re-assessed; March will be a working meeting to discuss further

❖ **Member Share –**

- Dave – 3 bills – 1) 1408 - local jurisdiction bill to authorize local jurisdiction to allow a deviation from historic preservation standards when dealing with flooding – defined "qualified Historic District;" 2) 1420 – relates to MS4 permit and using money for MS4 permit projects – allows money from stormwater utility fee to be used for quantity instead of just quality projects; 3) 1428 – require any development or redevelopment project to require 100 yr SWM in a qualified historic district
- Lori – provided update Soak It Up project – Howard EcoWorks has funding form National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to assess private properties in the Tiber Hudson watershed and offer projects at decreased costs:
- Ken – presented "A Green Corridor" and justification for preserving Lot F
- Kevin – asked if presentation will be distributed – Phil - after public meeting 2/21

❖ **Adjourn – 7:30 pm**